1986 which includes a proposal envisaging modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant of SAIL with technical and economic cooperation from USSR. A Techno-Economic Offer has been received from the Soviets recently for the modernisation of the Steel Melting Shops and Hot Strip Mill of the Bokaro Plant.

Shortfall in the Production of Pulses

*252. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news which appeared in the "Financial Express" of the 8th February, 1988, wherein it had been stated that there was a likelihood of shortfall in the production of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated shortfall in the production of pulses during the year 1988-89 and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps has been taken to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The crop year 1988-89 refers to the period, 1st July, 1988 to 30th June, 1989. It is too early to indicate any shortfall in the likely production of pulses for that year.

(c) For increasing the production of pulses, the following strategy has been adopted:—

(i) A Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) has been launched from 1986-87 in all the States;

(ii) Introduction of pulse crops in irrigated farming system under double and multiple cropping;

(iii) Bringing additional area under:—

(a) short duration varieties of urad, moong etc. in rice fallows by utilising residual moisture in rabi season;

(b) short duration arhar in rotation with wheat in Northern States; and

(c) summer pluses with irrigation after mustard, potato and wheat;

(iv) Inter-cropping of arhar with soyabean, bajra, cotton, sugarcane and groundnut, both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions;

(v) Adoption of plant protection measures; use of phosphatic fertilisers and rhizobium culture, multiplication and use of improved pulses seeds.

(vi) Pricing and marketing support.

Registration of Producers/Directors for T.V. Serials

*253. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the process of scrutinising the applications for registration of producers/directors for Television serials have commenced;

(b) if so, what was the total number of applications received by Doordarshan upto 30-10-87 and how many applications have been processed so far; and

(c) what are the names of the persons associated with this Committee?